PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Seiji IINO et al. Group Art Unit: 2625

Application No.: 10/660,593 Examiner: Y. QIN

Filed: September 12, 2003 Docket No.: 117101

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection, Notice of Allowance, or other action that closes prosecution (e.g., Quayle Action), but before payment of the Issue Fee. The fees associated with this filing under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) are being paid electronically with this filing. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 15-0461.
 - a. I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- 2. One or more reference cited herein was cited in a counterpart foreign application. An English language version of the foreign Office Action is attached for the Examiner's information. See References 1-3.
- 3. An English language Abstract of one or more non-English language reference is attached. See References <u>1-3</u>.

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A computer-generated English language translation of one or more Japanese 4. Patent Publication cited herein has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office ([http://www.jpo.go.jp]), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 1-3.

Respectfully submitted

James Al Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III Registration No. 54,734

JAO:MJS/acd

Date: September 24, 2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. Box 320850 Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850

Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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